

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been pending in the application, of which Claims 1-24 have been rejected. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, to further the prosecution of this application, Claims 1 and 24 are canceled by this action. The Applicant reserves the right to further prosecute these claims in continuation applications.

The Applicant notes, with appreciation, the indication that Claims 2-6 and 8-23 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form and accompanied by a terminal disclaimer. These claims have now been rewritten to be independent of any of the rejected base claims. In addition, Claim 7 has been rewritten to be dependent on now independent Claim 4. A terminal disclaimer with Application 09/904,313 has been included to overcome the nonstatutory double patenting rejection. All claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

HAMILTON, BROOK, SMITH & REYNOLDS, P.C.

By *Lubashev*

Lyudmila Lubashev

Registration No. 55,408

Telephone: (978) 341-0036

Facsimile: (978) 341-0136

Concord, MA 01742-9133

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